1. **Marine** mammals live in the ocean.
2. A thick layer of blubber keeps them (marine mammals) warm in cold waters.
3. Marine mammals have streamlined bodies to help them swim faster.
4. Marine mammals have more blood than land mammals that allows them to direct their blood flow to their vital organs.
5. Polar bears and sea otters have thick fur with hollow hairs. The hollow hairs trap cold air and keep the animal warm in cold waters.
6. The walrus has tusks to protect it from polar bear or orca attacks.
7. Walruses also have two large air sacs on each side of their neck that keeps their heads will float about the water while they sleep.
8. Their (jellyfish, corals, anemones) tentacles are used to stun shrimp, little fish, and other small sea creatures before gobbling them down.
9. Instead of bones, crustaceans have a hard shell that completely covers their soft insides and protects them from pecking birds and hungry fish.
10. **Savanna** grasses have long roots that live through fires.
11. Cypress trees grow a wide base to secure themselves to ground. Their roots grow up out of the water and form cypress “knees” that let the roots get more air.
12. Some wetland animals are **camouflaged**, or hidden.
13. When animals and plants help each other exist it is known as **interdependence**.
14. An anole is a small lizard that can change color when frightened. Its oversized toes help it climb trees.
15. Some animals, like frogs, can be found in most wetlands, but not always the same **species**, or kind, of frog.
16. A snail kite’s beak is shaped like a hook for pulling the snail right out of the unbroken shell.
17. Some birds have beaks like spoons for scooping food up out of the water.
18. Animals that are awake during the night become more active. They are **nocturnal**.
19. Animals that are awake during the day are **diurnal**.
20. Succulents with thick waxy leaves survive by letting their leaves plump up with water when it rains. Then they have stored water for dry times.
21. The tail of the manatee is paddle-shaped. This helps the manatee swim.
22. Swamps, marshes, and bogs are all different kinds of **wetlands**.
23. An Arctic bumblebee flies about the frosty tundra.
24. The musk ox has broad hooves that spread out flat. These flat feet help keep the ox from sinking into the deep snow.
25. The ptarmigan’s white coloring helps it blend in with the snowy surroundings.
26. Most plants rely on regular rainfall, but desert plants may have to go without fresh water for more than a year.
27. They (prickly pear cacti) grew so quickly that large areas were overrun by the spiky plants. Small creatures that eat the prickly pear’s soft insides had to be introduced to Australia to help **reclaim** the land.
28. Some desert trees have long **taproots**, which grow deep into the ground to reach underground water sources.
29. Many plants, like the creosote bush, have a vast network of shallow roots to **extract** every available drop of moisture from their patch of the desert.
30. Some desert plants store food and water underground in thickened roots, bulbs, or **tubers**. The stems of such plants, exposed to sun and wind, may look dead, but as soon as it rains they spring into life, producing leaves, fruits, and flowers.
31. Some desert creatures get all the water they need from the food they eat.
32. Snakes can also burrow into the sand to cool down or escape from predators.
33. The cottontail rabbit can be found in some American deserts. It has large ears that act as **radiators**, giving off heat and so helping the rabbit to cool down.
34. They (camels) have bushy eyebrows and tow rows of eyelashes to help keep the sand out of their eyes. The slit nostrils can be closed for the same reason.
35. Camels are the **domestic** animals of the desert. They are used as transportation. They provide meat and milk for food. Their hairy coats are woven into cloth. Even the camel’s dry droppings are used as fuel for cooking fires.
36. Days after a heavy storm, billions of tiny seeds spring to life on the desert floor. These small flowering plants, called **ephemerals**, have been hiding in the sand since the last rainfall.
37. The bushmen of the Kalahari Desert in southern Africa are **nomads**, which means that they travel from place to place.
38. However, all birds have four common **characteristics**; they lay eggs and they have beaks, feathers, and wings …
39. There are about 9,000 different **species** of birds.
40. Some birds spend their entire lives in the same **habitat**, such as a forest or pond.
41. Each species is **adapted** to its environment. Penguins have thick skins and a layer of fat underneath to keep them warm; eagles and albatrosses have powerful wings to glide and soar.
42. Other (birds) **migrate**, often flying long distance to breed or to avoid harsh winter weather.
43. Most birds use their beaks to catch and eat food. Because of this, a bird’s beak often has a special feature or **adaptation** that helps it get the food it most likes to eat.
44. Marshes and swamps are **vital** storage places for one of Earth’s most precious resources, water.
45. They (owls) catch a wide variety of **prey**, including insects, frogs, fish, and small mammals. The owls carry the victims in their bills before swallowing them whole.
46. Owls are successful **nocturnal** hunters because of their large, sensitive eyes and very keen hearing. They can locate and capture a small rodent in total darkness from the noise it makes as it scuttles across the woodland floor.
47. By marking the territory with a scent that other lions can smell, the **pride** warns KEEP OUT OR ELSE!
48. During the dry months, the umbrella-shaped acacia tree **lost** its leaves.
49. Beetles and frogs that spent the dry **season** asleep in the earth awaken and dig to the surface.
50. …the cheetah must kill its prey on the first try. Otherwise, the gazelle escapes because it can run farther without tiring.
51. Some animals don’t have to leave … to **survive** the dry season. The African bullfrog buries itself in the mud at the bottom of the water hole.
52. Most swamps began as marshes when dead plants began to pile up and **decay**. In the marsh, more mud was made. As the area became shallower, trees, bushes and shrubs took root in the mud.